

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 15 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the letters dated 5 January 2018 (S/2018/19), 19 January 2018 (S/2018/52), 22 January 2018 (S/2018/55) and 5 February 2018 (S/2018/93) from the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations regarding missile launches during Saudi military operations against Yemen, I have the honour to draw your attention to the following:

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects and condemns the baseless accusations contained in those letters. My Government reiterates that it does not transfer to or manufacture in Yemen any arms or military equipment. We consider the accusations levelled by the Saudis to be destructive and provocatively aimed at distracting Member States and public opinion from the Saudi military atrocities in Yemen, wherein massive criminal acts have occurred against the oppressed people of Yemen.

2. While violating Security Council resolution 2216 (2015), the Saudi Arabian regime is misusing its provisions and the inactive attitude of the international community to continue its brutal and unlawful aggression in Yemen. At the same time, the imposed air, sea and land blockade, as well as massive, indiscriminate aerial bombings, have devastated the lives of millions of people, destroyed basic public infrastructure and facilities, led to displacement and inflicted disease and famine. These criminal acts are tantamount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

3. Over nearly three years, the foreign military intervention in Yemen by the Saudi-led coalition has exacerbated the humanitarian situation in that already poor country, leading to tens of thousands of deaths and injuries, millions of people suffering from disease and a large portion of the population displaced. Further, the inhumane blockade or the strict restrictions imposed continue to spread malnutrition, hunger and famine. The Saudi criminal adventure in Yemen lies at the origin of this human catastrophe, for which the Saudi leadership should be held accountable. The provision of massive humanitarian assistance to Yemen is imperative and urgent. This, coupled with an immediate ceasefire, is what the international community should occupy itself with, not baseless Saudi claims. Under these circumstances, the Saudi letter of 23 January 2018 (S/2018/62), in which the perpetrators of the crimes against humanity in Yemen talk of humanitarian assistance to the Yemenis, is preposterous.



4. The aggressive posture displayed by the Saudis in the region is not oriented only towards Yemen. The military interference in the neighbouring country to suppress peaceful protests, the provision of financial and military support as well as the ideological backing of terrorist and extremist groups in the region, destabilizing other countries for political gain, and the imposition of the air, sea and land blockade against another neighbour are just a few examples of the criminal and aggressive acts perpetrated by the Saudi Arabian regime — acts that flout international law, international humanitarian law and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

5. To facilitate its hostile and aggressive policy, the Saudi Arabian regime has made extensive efforts to abuse regional and international arrangements and organizations, especially the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations. The fifteenth Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC, which was convened in Jeddah on 21 January 2018 without observing the rules and the charter of the organization and with a lack of the required consensus or presence of all members, is another example of the charades by the Saudis aimed at manipulating OIC mechanisms for their short-sighted political agenda. The Islamic Republic of Iran rejected and condemned the final statement of the said OIC meeting, which surely does not reflect the position of members of the organization. We warn against such abuse by the Saudis of regional and international organizations as well as their manipulation towards employing those organizations in the service of their narrow agenda.

6. In view of the grave situation in Yemen, the Islamic Republic of Iran urges the United Nations system and the whole international community to take immediate measures to stop the criminally inhumane acts of the Saudi-led coalition against Yemen and bring those responsible for the plight of the Yemeni people to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative